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248 that of ramie, which is stronger than most other
433 species. Hemp is used chiefly for making canvas, ropes, coarse fabrics, and gunny sacks. During recent years, it has been widely planted in Chekiang Province, and the output²⁸ in 1953 showed a twenty-fold increase over 1936.

Ramie is widely produced in East China provinces. Its strength is about three times that of hemp and eight times that of rayon and cotton.²⁹ It is used mainly for manufacturing canvas, ropes, nets, and linen cloth. Jute, another species of the same family, is grown in the northern sections of Kiangsu and Anhwei as well as in Shantung. It is used for making rugs, mats, and gunny sacks. The output in East China is comparatively small.

D. Oil-bearing Crops

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433 Excluding soyabeans, the oil-bearing crops in East China are peanuts, sesame seeds, rape-seeds, cottonseeds, and teaseeds. Although the production of soyabeans was far greater than that of peanuts in 1952, the output of peanut oil was 2,200,000 shih-piculs (121,000 tons), about 30 per cent higher than the output of soyabean oil in the same year.³⁰ The discrepancy was due to the fact that the local population prefer to use peanut oil. The total East China production of edible oil from different oil-bearing crops in 1952 amounted to approximately 8,000,000 shih-piculs (440,000 tons). Since 1953, the supply of edible oil has decreased; therefore, the Communist authorities intensified their plans for expansion of the acreage

23. Wen-hui Daily, loc. cit.

29. Chinese Economic Journal, Shanghai, Bureau of Foreign Trade, Oct. 1936, Vol. XIX, No. 4, pp. 345-346. [See next page for No. 30.]

249 of oil-bearing crops throughout all regions. The
433 projected national goal of an increase of 53.7
per cent in 1954 over the production in 1952 was
reported by Li Fu-ch'un in the first Five-Year
Plan. 31

VIII. FISHERIES OF EAST CHINA

228 Because of its long coastline and numerous
433 streams and lakes, East China is especially rich
in both salt-water and fresh-water fish resources.

Of the principal fishing areas of Kiangsu
and Chekiang, Chou-shan (Chusan) is the most
famous. Over 10,000 fishing boats gather near
the Chou-shan Island each spring to catch many
different species of fish. The goal set for 1955
is 6,400,000 shih-piculs (352,000 tons),³²
approximately four and a half times that of 1949.

Kiangsu and Chekiang have abundant fresh-
water-fish resources; Kiangsu has 1,173.7 million
shih-mou (195.6 million acres) of river area and
1.6 million shih-mou (266,667 acres) of lake area,
while Chekiang has a combined river and lake area
of over 2,000,000 shih-mou (over 400,000 acres).
A tremendous quantity of fish is caught each year.

IX. WATER CONSERVATION IN EAST CHINA

731 For many centuries the Hwai River and its
tributaries have been the main sources of flood

30. Economic Bulletin, Hong Kong,
Ching-chi Tao-pao She, Mar. 17, 1953, #310, p. 16

31. NCNA, Peking, July 11, 1955.

32. People's China, Peking, Feb. 1, 1955.
p. 13.

SHANGHAI MANUFACTURING

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Among the food industries, Shanghai's flour mills, as we have seen above in Chapter Nine, depended more heavily on foreign wheat imports than on what they drew from China. The six plants in Shanghai in the 1930's producing dried, powdered, or frozen eggs were all foreign-owned and all large-scale, employing an average of about 350 workers per plant.¹⁵ The area from which they drew their eggs has already been outlined in Chapter Nine. While local sources were important in this industry, they did not fill the entire demand, and it was necessary to bring eggs from as far as Hankow. Shantung was also a large egg-producing center, but the factory production of preserved eggs in Tsinan and Tsingtao combined was less than a third of Shanghai's.¹⁶ It is reasonable to suppose that a measure of this difference was accounted for by the water transport network feeding Shanghai and the lack of it in Shantung.

Of all the food industries in Shanghai, tobacco manufacturing was most notably divorced from major sources of supply. The cigarette industry in China had been started on a large scale by the American Tobacco Company in the late 1890's (it merged with British interests in 1902 to form the British-American Tobacco Company, the largest producer of tobacco products in China). During the first decade of the twentieth century, its foreign tobacco experts surveyed soil and climatic conditions in China and fixed on three main areas where American tobacco seed would grow best so that its leaf could be blended with the native Chinese leaf (which was produced in small quantities in most parts of central and north China but with the best quality leaf coming from the three areas selected by the foreign experts) to produce an inexpensive but good quality smoke. The three areas were located in south central Shantung, northwestern Anhwei, and central Honan. Large Chinese cigarette producers entered the field after 1905, drawing on the increasing domestic production of foreign-type leaf and blending it with Chinese leaf.¹⁷

In spite of the presence of large industrial centers (by Chinese standards) in or near these main producing areas (Kaifeng and Hankow for Honan, Kiukiang, Wuhu, and Nanking for Anhwei, Tsingtao and Tsinan for Shantung), approximately 60 per cent of

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